



May 10, 2021

MI SB 400, Relating to the expunction of certain first-time OWI offenses

Dear Chairman Filler, Vice Chair Mueller, and distinguished members of House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Coalition of Ignition Interlock Manufacturers, we urge you to amend SB 400 to add the requirement that a person must show proof of six months of continuous use of an ignition interlock device (IID) before being granted expungement. The Coalition of Ignition Interlock Manufacturers (CIIM) is composed of the nation's leading companies that manufacture ignition interlock devices that prohibit impaired persons from starting their vehicle. Our shared goal is to provide state administrators, courts, and policy makers the tools necessary to keep our roads and highways safe from drunk drivers.

Although CIIM recognizes that it is important in general to give people second chances, the criminal offense of operating while intoxicated is not a suitable crime to justify an expungement, unless there are important safeguards like ignition interlock devices in place. A first-time OWI offender is very likely already a repeat offender that just has not been caught yet. Studies have found that on average, one arrest is made for every 88 instances of alcohol-impaired driving. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the use of ignition interlocks reduces repeat offenses for driving while intoxicated by 67% while they are installed compared to license suspensions alone. Ignition Interlocks help reduce repeat offenses even after the device is removed by 39 percent compared to offenders who never installed an interlock.

CIIM believes the requested amendment is a reasonable concession to make for a crime that is very serious, violent, and often a reoccurring crime if not adequately addressed on the first offense. We ask the committee to amend the bill to require proof of six months of continuous use of ignition interlocks before an expungement may be granted. We believe that this amendment will better ensure the safety of the citizens of Michigan on our roadways.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Zugschwert', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephanie Zugschwert, JD
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